

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please enter the following paragraph after paragraph 31 and before paragraph 32 in the specification, and renumber the paragraphs of the specification accordingly:

--In another embodiment, a surgical device is disclosed for use in arthroscopic rotator cuff repair. This device contains at least one superelastic member having a first resting configuration that defines a first curve with a radius of curvature greater than or equal to 3 times a diameter of the superelastic member. The device also has a thermally formed opening in its superelastic member. The opening is adapted to pass at least one suture strand. Further, a sharpened tip on the device is adapted to puncture through a tendon. The device also includes at least one straightening mechanism adapted to compress the superelastic member into a second stressed configuration that defines a curve with a radius of curvature greater than 2 times a radius of curvature for the first resting configuration. There is an actuation mechanism associated with the superelastic member and the straightening mechanism. The actuation mechanism is adapted to advance and retract the superelastic member relative to the straightening mechanism.--

Please amend paragraph 71 of the specification as originally filed and replace it with the following amended paragraph:

--[0071] FIG. 9a shows a superelastic grasping, suture passing device 44 capable of capturing soft tissue and advancing or retracting strands (limbs) of suture through the captured soft tissue. The grasping, suture passing device 44 incorporates an upper jaw 46, which moves relative to a lower jaw 48. A stylet actuator 56 rotates the upper jaw 46 relative to a pivot connector to the lower jaw 48, and is manipulated by a proximal handle[[], not shown]] 45. The

grasping, suture passing device 44 captures tissue prior to deploying the superelastic puncturing component and advancing the suture through the soft tissue. This grasping, suture passing device 44 can incorporate a lumen through the length; the lumen communicates with a proximal opening, not shown, and a distal opening, shown in FIG. 9a. The superelastic puncturing component 10 is contained within the lumen 52 of the grasping, suture passing device 44. The superelastic puncturing component is retracted into the lumen to compress the puncturing component into a low profile for deployment or in preparation for insertion through the captured soft tissue. Once soft tissue is captured between the upper and lower jaws, the superelastic puncturing component is advanced through the soft tissue. An opening 50 in the upper jaw 46 directs the superelastic puncturing component's path through the soft tissue. This opening can be created such that a thin edge extends partially or completely around the upper jaw profile. In the preferred configuration, the opening extends through the middle region of the upper jaw and completely through the distal tip of the upper jaw such that the upper jaw can be removed from around the side of a suture strand once the suture is passed and the soft tissue is released. Once the superelastic puncturing component is positioned through the soft tissue, the suture is removed from the eyelet, the superelastic puncturing component is retracted inside the lumen, and the soft tissue is released from the jaws of the grasping, suture passing device 44.--